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No. 2389



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REPORTED EVIDENCE OF S. AFRICA'S USE OF ANGOLAN, OTHER MERCENARIES

London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 pp 492-3

[Article by Suzanne Cronje]

[Text]

Suzanne Cronje reports on further evidence of mercenaries employed by South Africa in Angola.

THE 32nd Battalion of the South African Defence Forces consists of black mercenaries, commanded by white South Africans or other mercenaries. It operates from bases in northern Namibia and is used principally for raids into Angola. The methods it uses in this process were described in terrifying detail last month by a British mercenary who deserted from this force, Trevor Edwards (*West Africa*, February 9). Since then further evidence has come to light about 31, 33, 34, and who knows how many other battalions. The 31st, for instance, is used for raids across the Zambian border.

The threat which this poses to Africa emerges from the evidence given in Luanda at the beginning of the month by an Angolan who defected from 32 Battalion a year ago*. Jose Ricardo Belmundo served with the South African army for four years. The account of his experiences reveals that Pretoria's military operations are not simply aimed at destroying guerrilla movements, such as SWAPO, but at destabilising all countries on which it borders — unless, of course, they pose no threat to South Africa's policies.

Belmundo's family fled from Angola when he was a child, to escape Portuguese colonial rule. In Zaire, where he was educated, he joined the FNLA, and in 1975, when the FNLA was on the point of defeat, he and many of his colleagues were recruited into the South African army. How

willingly Belmundo went is open to question. As he describes it: "We left Ngunza after South Africa had sabotaged economic targets. We arrived in Lubango after a forced march... and (were) forcibly disarmed. We continued our march to Chitado".

'Cleaning-up operations'

From there he joined 32 Battalion, but not before acquiring South African citizenship — without much choice in the matter. Because of his education, he and some 30 in his group were selected for commando and officer training courses in Pretoria and Durban: Belmundo eventually reached the rank of captain. In 1978/79, he led reconnaissance missions deep into Angola, as well as "cleaning-up operations". In the course of the latter, "we had precise instructions to destroy schools, hospitals, houses, and to wipe out civilian populations and kill cattle". For this purpose 32 Battalion used 140mm and 155mm cannons, AML-90 armoured cars, and it had support from a variety of warplanes. The result: "total destruction of everything in our path".

One of 32's tasks was to assist UNITA. "Whenever UNITA had operational difficulties it would contact South African military security, which would call on 32

Battalion to organise a force to go in and get UNITA out of trouble. We would operate on behalf of UNITA in UNITA regions". During these raids, Belmundo and his men did not use regular equipment, to avoid identification as South African troops. "The 32nd Battalion was made to appear like UNITA. We carried Chinese-made AKs . . ." The South African authorities told them that in the event of their capture they would be disowned. For operations within Namibia, regular South African uniforms were worn.

Belmundo said that 32 Battalion included many European mercenaries — he mentioned French, Portuguese, Israeli and American officers — but the majority were British. During his training in Pretoria, he was joined by Mozambicans and Rhodesians. "As far as mercenaries from the front line states are concerned, I myself am an example from Angola. With me were mercenaries from Zambia and Zimbabwe . . . The Zambian mercenaries, for example, were organised and trained to carry out sabotage against the leadership in Zambia". Before Zimbabwe's independence, South Africa would move the mercenaries around between Rhodesia and 32 Battalion, and back again.

32 Battalion was "a special intervention unit, divided into several specialities." He had received training in anti-aircraft weapons. It was a strenuous existence, although the pay was good. "We didn't have much time off. After 30 to 60 days we would have seven days off, followed by three weeks training, and then back to the bush". In December they would go on vacation, and during that time their bases were manned by units from the Baratians. These men from the black "hinterlands" would not be sent into Angola, or anywhere near the border. Although the war was ostensibly against SWAPO "terrorists", black South Africans may not have been trusted. The Angolans in 32 were under such tight military control that it was difficult for them to abscond. "I myself was able to desert because I knew how to work with a map and compass in the bush; others didn't know".

Some of Belmundo's evidence is clearly an exercise in self-justification. His reason for deserting was that the South African army "only taught us how to commit

aggressive actions . . . Ever since I was born, I never had an aggressive type of education". The Angolans say that a number of other deserters from 32 Battalion have surrendered to them. Their evidence apparently confirms Belmundo's and that of Trevor Edwards.

A few days ago yet another mercenary surfaced, this time in Salisbury. Identifying himself by the code-name of "Cowboy", he said he had spent two years with 32 Battalion, after nine years in the Rhodesian Army. His first military experience was with the Australian infantry. "Cowboy" said he had deserted because he had become "tired of killing civilians"; he now plans to join the Israeli army.

Illegal South African presence

The South Africans may deny details of individual accounts, but they scarcely bother to disguise the grand design. Since Edwards' story was published, Colonel Leon Martins of the South African Army, who commands a section of the Namibian border, has admitted the existence of 32 Battalion. One of his colleagues has confirmed that 32 consists of black Angolans, with Europeans and South Africans in command, and that it specialises in cross-border operations. "We can win this war", Martins told Quentin Peel of the *Financial Times* this month, "but if you allow the terrorists to come into your area, it would take 30 to 80 years. If you knock him out where he is — that is in Angola — it will take 10 to 15 years".

There is no reason to believe that either of these vague estimates, or SWAPO's more optimistic forecasts, is in any way accurate. SWAPO may not be able to break the stalemate because it has no mercenaries at its command, and while South Africa argues that it is defending itself against external aggression, SWAPO can point out that the South African presence in Namibia is illegal in international law.

"The occasion was the Second Session of the Brussels-based International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of the Racist Regime of Southern Africa. The evidence presented here comes from transcripts of the hearings, a sworn statement by Belmundo, and his answers at a press conference on February 2."

FRENCH HEALTH ROLE IN AFRICA CHALLENGED

London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 p 481

[Text]

A ROW has broken out in France over the revelation of a confidential agreement reached between the six western nations that form the French inspired Association Concertée pour le Développement de l'Afrique, ACDA. Under the agreement, some of the major development sectors and projects have been allocated to the six participant states: France, Belgium, West Germany, Great Britain, US and Canada. Responsibility for assistance in public health in Africa has been given to the United States, and the US Congress has already voted \$35m. to this effect.

The consternation which the revelation of the agreement has caused in France is based on two concerns. The first is that of the medical and pharmaceutical professions which have long been pre-eminent, especially in the French-speaking countries of Africa. It is argued that some of the research institutes will suffer, and that the agreement gives the US something of an open door to the ever-expanding pharmaceutical market in Africa. At another level, there is the strategic argument that Europe has ceded to the US a vital area of influence in Africa. *Le Monde* headlined a small commentary on the subject: "The European Resignation."

In May, 1980, representatives of the six countries held a meeting in Bonn in which they outlined six programmes or projects in Africa which were of mutual interest to all, and they allocated responsibility for each.

The United Kingdom was given responsibility for the repairs on the railway linking Mozambique with Zimbabwe and for the Juba-Lodwar road in Sudan. Belgium will see to the Central African roads between Kisangani and Bukavu and between Bouar and Tibati. West Germany is responsible for improvement in railway facilities in eastern and southern Africa. Integrated rural development plans, with particular reference to irrigated perimeters of the Niger and Senegal River basins and the Senegal River development plan became part of the French sphere of influence. The United States assumed responsibility for the "development of research and methods of rural development" and for "the improvement of public health".

The last decision represents a direct challenge to an activity which the French consider themselves pioneers in Africa. There are over 1,000 French medical experts acting as advisers in Africa, of which 600 are doctors. There are 116 French nationals who teach in medical faculties in Africa. France contributes substantially to a number of regional organisations involved in combating disease in West and Central Africa. The Institut Pasteur, which has five branches in Africa, has been at the forefront of research and is credited with contribution significantly to the development of the BCG vaccine, while the Institut Mérieux is an important distributor of vaccine in Africa.

The United States, through the Agency for International Development, has already drawn up its public health strategy. The execution of the programme will be in the hands of AID and the Center for Disease Control and is expected to begin this year. Several US medical teams have already been to Africa visiting, in the West Africa region, Ghana, Togo, Ivory Coast, Mali and Liberia. A major training programme is envisaged; statistical and other information is to be gathered on a large scale to permit proper planning and emphasis will be placed on research.

While surprise at the agreement has been expressed in political circles and among commentators in France, two immediate observations can be made. The role of the US will result in a much needed injection of finance into a deprived sector. Secondly, it is impossible to imagine that an agreement on such a scale can have been reached without consultation with many of the government likely to be most closely affected.

It is still uncertain as to how the US financing of the programme will be allocated. Certainly, the suspicion has been expressed that much of the money will go into personnel. But the real concern in France is that not only will an entire method of medical assistance be changed but that it will seriously handicap the role of France in Africa.

It has been noted that the US takes a very different view to the French in medical assistance. Whereas the latter operate with mobile units, the US prefers to set up regional centres. In the Sahel, where the French have by far the greatest experience, there is little doubt that the mobility of the rural inhabitant is severely restricted.

More significant in the long run is the commercial gain for American pharmaceutical organisations and the political kudos to be gained from being associated with the most humanitarian of all the forms of aid. It is here that many French observers discern the greatest potential loss.

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

MALI-ALGERIA BORDER TALKS--Bamako, 11 Mar--The talks on the border problems between Mali and Algeria ended in Bamako on Tuesday, but no communique was issued. The two ministers of interior, Col Sory Ibrahim Sylla (Mali) and Boualem Banhamouda (Algeria) who led their respective delegations disclosed that the "serene, fraternal and friendly" nature of the talks guarantees that the resolutions adopted by the two sides will be implemented. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 12 Mar 81 p 8]

GUINEA-BISSAU ARRESTS ZAIRIANS--A total of eight Zairians who entered the country clandestinely to eliminate opponents of President Mobutu have been arrested. About 40 opponents of the Kinshasa regime, mainly leaders of the Front for the National Liberation of the Congo headed by Gen Nathanael Mbumba have been residing in Bissau since December 1979. [Text] [Dakar AFRICA in French Mar 81 p 9]

CSO: 4401

BRIEFS

UNITA-HELD PORTUGUESE PRISONERS--The Portuguese Government announced on Friday 13 March that Savimbi's UNITA--the opposition movement conducting guerrilla warfare against the Luanda leadership--is holding 26 Portuguese citizens. Lisbon declared that it is not aware of the reasons for their detention; it has asked the international Red Cross to intervene in favor of their release. In a related development, following the issuance of the death sentence against 18 UNITA members by an Angolan military tribunal, UNITA threatened reprisals against "this intolerable escalation of violence" in a communique which reached Paris on Friday. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 15-16 Mar 81 p 2]

RISING OFF-SHORE OIL PRODUCTION--Angola's off-shore oil production is expected to reach 15m. to 20m. tonnes a year by 1985, according to the Minister for Petroleum, Mr Jorge Morais. He announced that Angola has signed an agreement with the International Energy Development Corporation, a Canadian-Swedish-Kuwaiti company for prospecting and evaluating oil reserves. Production for this year is expected to be about 8m. tonnes and to rise to 10m. tonnes next year. Present production is mainly off the coasts of Cabinda and the northern province bordering Zaire but the national oil company, Sonangol, is hoping to encourage prospecting along the whole Atlantic coast, which has been divided into 10 exploration areas. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 p 509]

ON-GOING OIL EXPLORATION NEGOTIATIONS--Angola is negotiating exploration rights to a new offshore oil block with two US oil companies and another foreign firm, according to the Angolan news agency ANGOP. Sonangol, the Angolan state-owned oil company, said negotiations are underway to lease the 4,500 square km. (1,500 square miles) block to the US companies Marathon and Cities Services and a third unidentified company. The new block is the first of 10 such areas off the coast of Central and Southern Angola which Sonangol hopes to prospect in conjunction with foreign oil companies. Production from offshore oilfields off Northern Angola is eventually expected to rise to about 11m. tonnes a year, and Sonangol aims to start exploratory drilling in Southern Angola by 1983. Texaco, Gulf and Elf-Aquitaine already have a stake in Angolan production or exploration. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 p 509]

YUGOSLAV PORT CONSTRUCTION--A Yugoslav firm is to start work this month on a large sea port in Cabinda. The port project would cost about \$70m. and be finished by May 1983. The contractor--the "Ivan Milutinovic" waterways engineering enterprise (PIM) of Belgrade--"is also expected to work on the expansion of old and construction of new ports in Luanda, Lobito and Mocamedes." [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 p 509]

BRIEFS

MINING LEVY ON FOREIGN REVENUE--A levy of 2 and 1/2 percent on all foreign revenue from the mining industry will be made for the purposes of importing essential spare parts and stores for that sector. Inaugurating new boards of directors of the State Gold Mining Corporation and of the Bauzite Company Ltd. in Accra, Mr Yeboah-Acheampong, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, said the reason for this was the many problems facing the mining sector. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 p 522]

UK EXPORTS--Despite the economy's difficulties, UK exports to Ghana totalled £88m. in 1979, and in the first 11 months of 1980 remained at much the same level, according to the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The biggest sectors are capital and transport machinery (£42.9m) and manufactured goods (£13m.). In one of its workshop series on key African markets, the London Chamber held a meeting early this month on the theme: "Get going in Ghana." [Excerpt] [London WEST AFRICA in English 9 Mar 81 p 522]

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT--Bissau, 28 Feb--Brazilian President Joao Pigueiredo will visit Guinea-Bissau at the end of this year, the ANOP (PORTUGUESE PRESS AGENCY) announced today in the Guinean capital. Pigueiredo had been invited by former President Luiz Cabral during the latter's visit to Brazil. The invitation has now been confirmed by Minister of Education Mario Cabral during his stay in Brazil for the meeting of the mixed Brazilian-Guinean commission. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 1 Mar 81 p 8]

NEW RANKS AWARDED--Five members of the Council of the Revolution have been promoted in the armed forces together with 84 other military. Three of the members of the council have been promoted to the rank of colonel. They are Lt Cols Iafai Camara, Manuel Saturnino and Buota Na Mbatha. A private first class, Carlos Melina, was promoted to captain for "courage and distinguished behavior" at the time of the 14 November coup d'etat. [Text] [Dakar AFRICA in French Mar 81 p 9]

CSO: 4401

MINISTER SAYS NATION NEEDS FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 17 Mar 81 p 3

(Text)

KENYA needs foreign investment that would create employment, use local resources and earn or save foreign exchange.

Industry Minister Mungua Waiyaki said this yesterday when he met a delegation of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce in Nairobi.

Such joint ventures should save more foreign exchange than the import route. Foreign investment should also transfer the needed technology, allow public ownership of shares and offer prospects for reinvestment of profits.

"We here in Kenya are committed to promote a mixed economy and to welcome foreign investment and collaboration in the private sector on a selective basis," Dr. Waiyaki said at a party hosted for the trade mission by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Vinod Grover.

The visit was timely and came after President Mbe's State visit to India where he signed agreements on several industrial and manufacturing projects, he said.

Technology

Kenya wanted to promote export-oriented industries based on local resources, he told the party.

The leader of the delegation, Mr. K. G. Khanna, who is also president of the Chamber of Commerce, said his mission was in the country to identify areas for joint ventures and help in rural industrialisation and not to sell their products.

India had the appropriate technology for Kenya's rapid industrialisation, he said. Western technology was sophisticated and expensive and suited specially trained manpower, he added.

Western technology was not fully innovative and therefore unsuitable to developing countries which were trying to solve their developmental problems.

The mission is in Kenya for one week and will proceed to Nigeria and Ghana afterwards. The delegation represents about 60 industries from all over India, he added.

The Indian High Commissioner said it was important for each country to have its appropriate technology and not to depend on borrowed one for ever, Mr. Grover said.

India believed in transferring her technology to other countries.

GOVERNMENT'S HESITATION TO BAN CIVIL SERVANTS' BUSINESS ROLE RAFFLED

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 14 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE kindest thing that one can say about the Kenya Government's failure to decide whether public officers should be allowed to engage in private business is that, it is unfortunate. This footdragging is all the more inexplicable since the Government has accepted the need for the integrity of the public service to be impeccable.

Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1980, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, says the Waruhia Civil Service Review Committee's recommendation that public officers be denied permission to engage in business will be considered after the formulation of the proposed leadership code of conduct. This amounts to shelving this important recommendation since, like in many other areas, the Government has yet to come up with a deadline for the code to be formulated.

The importance of barring public officials from involvement in private business lies in the fact that it is extremely difficult for a public official to remain neutral when making a decision affecting a business in which he has a personal stake.

This difficulty becomes all the greater among some officials who have shown an appetite for grabbing every business in sight — from kiosks to sophisticated manufacturing plants. When a public official owns such a plant, producing articles which the Government buys, the temptation to avoid following the tendering procedure strictly becomes so great that many succumb and compromise their positions. Human nature being what it is, it is unrealistic to expect all officers to act otherwise.

The distribution trade has also at times been adversely affected by the fact that public officials have been allowed to acquire wholesale and retail licenses. Since some of them try their best, in the circumstances, to serve two masters, they end up

being inefficient businessmen. The consumers pay for this inefficiency, which is aggravated by the fact that they also get poor leadership.

But perhaps the areas which have suffered most are the industries which depend on importation of raw materials. When the Government is forced by a shortage of foreign exchange to impose selective importation laws the temptation for the relevant officer to allow importation of the goods he deals in, irrespective of their necessity, may be too strong to resist. Some observers see this as one of the reasons for the fact that some shops are stocked with imported luxury items which can be produced locally, while at the same time manufacturing plants are forced to curtail production because they cannot import the necessary raw materials.

The solution lies in tackling the problem at its source by requiring an officer to resign if he is interested in going into business. Such officers should also be barred from doing business with the Government for a number of years after resigning. This will lessen the danger of a conflict of interest which has bedevilled many a developing country.

The danger was recognised by the Waruhiu Committee, which reached the same conclusion as reached at the leaders' conference held at Kabete last July. Both felt that a leadership code of conduct was necessary. For this code to have the desired effect it should apply to all those persons in leadership roles in the country ranging from town and municipal councils, Members of Parliament, senior and not so senior civil servants, leaders of co-operative and welfare associations, directors and senior officials of statutory bodies, Kanu leaders at all levels, and fund raising organisers.

To exclude any category of leaders from being bound by the code would amount both to giving it an unfair advantage on other Kenyans as well as undermining their capability to perform their duties impartially. Additionally, the Government should give the formulation of this code greater priority than it has done so far. But even before the code is formulated, and especially since it is likely to take a considerable amount of time before it is implemented even after it is ready, it is desirable to pass the necessary rules affecting civil servants which will at the very least specify the kinds of businesses they should not engage in.

MOI HINTS DETENTION ACT MAY BE USED AGAINST HARDENED CRIMINALS

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 17 Mar 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by John Esibi]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Moi yesterday warned he may have to detain gang leaders and hardened criminals under the Detention Act.

He was speaking on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport from his State visits to Nigeria and Ghana.

The President hinted the Detention Act might have to be used for hardened criminals who were harassing Kenyans.

"We intend to introduce a law which will effectively deal with the criminals and their leaders. And I hope not a single MP will oppose it," he said amid applause from him of people who had turned up to welcome him.

The President said he was not prepared to continue preaching peace if his appeal was not heeded.

He then asked Police Commissioner Ben Gethu: "Do you hear that?"

The Commissioner stood up bowed to the President and saluted.

Later he told the NATION: "Now that the President has warned them, we hope that gangster and their masterminds will immediately wake up and

renounce their evil acts."

Saying the police knew the gang leaders, Mr. Gethu added: "They are wealthy people who have always been behind ordinary gangsters."

Evidence

The Commissioner said it was difficult to convict gang leaders under the present laws. "The police have always experienced problems in bringing sufficient evidence against the gang leaders whenever they appeared in courts."

He noted: "But now that the President has warned them, we'll soon round them up and hand them over. It is up to them now to decide. We know all of them, their names and where they live."

BRIEFS

RICE PRICE INCREASES--Rice has gone up by 20 cents a kilo. Basmati rice (pishori), containing not more than 20 percent broken grain by weight, and until now 9/40 per 2 kg packet, will now cost 9/80 in Nairobi and many parts of the country. The 20kg. packet will cost 97/-. Sindano rice (grade 11) containing less than 20 percent broken grain and hitherto costing 3/05 per kilo will now cost 3/25 or 6/50 per 2 kg. packet. In Mandera and Moyale, basmati will cost 11/20 per 2kg. packet and 110/95 per 20 kg. bale, while in Merti, Garbatulla and Samburu it will cost 10/10 per kg. and 99/75 per 20 kg. In Lamu, Tana River, Marsabit and Turkana, basmati will cost 10/30 per 2kg. and 104/50 per 20 kg. Sindano rice will cost 8/- per 2 kg. packet in Mandera and Moyale, 7/20 in Lamu, Tana River, Marsabit and Turkana, and 6/70 in Merti, Garbatulla and Samburu. Imported rice containing not more than 20 percent of broken grain will cost 4/60 per kg. in all parts of Kenya with the exception of Mandera and Moyale where it will cost 4/85, Lamu, Tana River, Marsabit and Turkana 4/75, and 4/70 in Merti, Garbatulla and Samburu. All other types of rice will cost 5/20 per kilo in Nairobi and other parts, 6/80 in Mandera and Moyale, 6/10 in Lamu, Tana River, Marsabit and Turkana, and 5/70 in Merti, Garbatulla and Samburu. The price were announced in yesterday's "Kenya Gazette." [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 14 Mar 81 p 3]

PETROLEUM SHORTAGE IN KAPENGURA--Kapenguria town has been hit by petrol and kerosene shortages. The owner of the only petrol station in West Pokot District, Mr Mohamed Sumba yesterday said that since the pumps went dry two weeks ago, he has appealed several times to Esso agents to send him his normal supply. He said the agents only gave promises. Mr Sumba said the petrol suppliers were planning to install electric pumps at the station to replace the manual ones. The agent, however, claimed that authority has not been granted by the head officer in Nairobi for a mechanic to go to Kapenguria to install a generator and the new pumps, although the equipments were already in Eldoret. Mr Sumba also said Pokot County Council has decided to charge him 700/- for the station from the present 200/- per year. He wondered why the council wanted him to pay 700/- for a petrol pump while rent for a fully equipped petrol station was 600/-. Meanwhile motorists and paraffin users are suffering as they have now to travel to Kitale 40 Km. away to buy the fuel. Some authorities have also pointed out the danger of people storing petrol in their houses.--KNA [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 16 Mar 81 p 3]

NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE DROUGHT--Somali herdsmen and their animals from the rural areas of North-Eastern Province are flocking to Wajir town as most boreholes and wells have run dry due to the drought. Reports reaching the NATION from Wajir yesterday said large numbers of Somalis and thousands of camels, cows and other animals were arriving in the town from all parts of the district. The sudden presence of livestock has caused concern to the residents as large swarms of flies have invaded the town, especially the Government quarters near the boreholes, reports said. Nomads in the area have made repeated appeals to the Government's Livestock Marketing Division to buy the remaining animals before they fall prey to the drought. Hundreds of carcasses are reported lying along the Mandera-Garissa route. It is feared that with rain soon most livestock in Wajir will die. There are about 50,000 animals waiting to be auctioned in Wajir District, statistics show. The Livestock Marketing Division last year incurred heavy losses after buying animals in the area, a source told the NATION. The nomads had driven their stock to the four boreholes in Wajir. There is also an unexpected increase of patients at Wajir District Hospital. The number of people needing famine relief is also on the increase, reports said. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 17 Mar 81 p 3]

EGYPTIAN AID--Egypt has pledged to help Kenya train technicians in water engineering and resources management, Water Development Minister Moses Mudavadi said yesterday. The Minister told a press conference that a joint agreement was signed by the two States in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, last week. And according to the agreement Egypt would admit 100 Kenyans to water engineering faculties in Egyptian universities. Egypt would also send 45 water engineering experts to Kenya to help in the implementation and administration of water related programmes of the Ministry. Sixteen of these will work in the various Kenya water engineering training institutions, Mr Mudavadi said. The Minister said the first batch of 14 Egyptian water experts is expected to arrive in July. Mr Mudavadi also said that the Egyptian aid would partially be used to establish the proposed National Water Institute in Kajiado. Mr Mudavadi signed on behalf of the Kenya Government while the Minister for Irrigation and State for Sudanese Affairs, Mohamed Abdel Hadi Samaha, signed for Egypt. While in Egypt, Mr Mudavadi met Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and gave him a message from President Moi. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 14 Mar 81 p 4]

CSO: 4420

QUIWONKPA URGES PRC 'TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE'

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

{Article by J.M. Cassell}

[Text] After a brief absence from the public, Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa emerged Monday and urged members of the PRC to speak with one voice.

General Quiwonkpa, at a press conference held at the Ministry of Information, said although Chairman Doe mentioned in his November 17th message that the Council should speak with one voice, "this has not yet happened because each Council member thinks he is Head of State."

He said: I am taking over the responsibility to ensure that what the chairman says is carried out. No member of the council will be allowed to go contrary to the interest of our Revolution by making decisions and pronouncements on their own.

The General said as Commanding General of the Armed Forces of this country, he was prepared "more than ever before," to enforce all decisions taken by the Council.

"We must be serious in our actions because Liberia is not a nation by itself. The whole world is watching us. Our enemies want us to fail but we shall not fail," he vowed.

He, however, further cautioned that all Council members must leave the management of government to the cabinet and the Head of State and get to the business of protecting our country from outside aggression, adding, "my men are alert, watching for all those working against national interest."

General Quiwonkpa warned councilmen against running to the counties and territories and making decisions without regard for the superintendents.

"This is a disrespect to the office of the Chairman, the man we elected as our Head. This habit must stop," he added.

Conscious of the fate of his countrymen, Quiwonkpa said a lot of unpleasant developments have taken place lately against the Liberian people which are contrary to the aims of the popular Revolution of April 12.

He said he had been aware with these developments and as Commanding General of the AFL, it is his responsibility to correct all of these detractions.

If the new Liberian society is to be built upon progressive principles, he said, these incidents must be stopped.

Citing some remedial measures to be applied, Quiwonkpa said "any soldier found breaking into a home and occupying it will be considered an enemy of the Revolution," and will face immediate disciplinary action.

"I will also be asking the Ministry of Defense to provide name tags of numbers for each man in arm for easy identification," he added.

Amidst a standing ovation from members of the Press, the General said he was dissatisfied with the functions of the Reacquisition Commission which was set up recently by the PRC for handling confiscated properties.

His dissatisfaction he said, stemmed from the fact that some high bureaucrats were overlapping their functions, and thereby infringing upon the operations of the commission.

However, he said, he shall be taking a serious look into the Commission structure to make it more profitable to Government.

"All of us must remember that we won our Revolution by guns, but, the people must keep it going." He noted that the Head of State had always said that "we depend on the people for success. We have to show good will and love for our people."

Those who have committed crimes against the state, he said, must be given fair treatment so that we may prove to the world that we mean business.

Mr Quiwonkpa said anyone who is arrested without due process of law must be released.

He added the Ministry of Justice will have to function in the interest of the people or whoever is Minister would have to go.

While re-assuring foreign investors that they are welcome to this country, he said he is giving his Deputy Commanding General, the power to assist him in ensuring that both citizens and foreigners in this country live in peace adding "he is my number one watchman."

CSO: 4420

LIBERIA

BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO LIFT TRADE RESTRICTIONS

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 12 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

[Article by Napoleon A. Teage]

[Text] Renewed confidence in the People's Redemption Council has led the British Government to lift trade restrictions imposed on Liberia after the April 12 Revolution, Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh, Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs said here Monday.

Minister Tipoteh said as first step towards the relaxation of the trade restrictions of the trade restrictions, the Government of Britain through its Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD), has appealed to the Liberian Government to encourage importers here to clear their bills with British Exporters.

In an interview at his office Monday, Minister Tipoteh said the British Government feels such action on the part of "importers in Liberia would make it easier for the Export Credit Guarantee Department to relax its trade restrictions."

Dr. Tipoteh returned home Sunday from Britain where he led a three-man Liberian delegation to hold talks with British Government officials on reviving economic cooperation between the two countries. He disclosed that the British Government exemplified considerable understanding for the current state of the Liberian economy.

He said as a result of the Liberian delegation's firm discussions in London with officials, there was an indication of willingness on the part of the British Government to reconsider the decision by the ECGD.

The main restrictions on trade with Britain, Tipoteh explained, is the "Irrevocable Letter of Credit Requirement" imposed on Liberia by the ECGD.

Britain began tightening her trade links with Liberia back in 1979 following the rice riot. The whole situation however reached its peak in April 1980, when the government of Mr. William Tolbert was dethroned, Dr. Tipoteh said.

The ECGD, as a result, insisted on an irrevocable letter of credit for all business with Liberia.

Dr. Tipoteh told the NEW LIBERIAN that the imposition of the letter of credit requirement on Liberian Importers "is contributing to the heightening of the confidence crisis which continues to cripple the Liberian economy."

"Because of this," he maintained, "an appeal on behalf of the Liberian Government was advanced to the British Government "to take urgent action to remove the trade credit restrictions so as to facilitate the smooth flow of trade," while at the same time easing the confidence crisis.

In other development as a result of the Liberian delegation talks in London, an investment delegation of the West African Committee, a group set up by the British Government to promote private British investment in the sub-region, is to visit here during the latter half of this year.

Already, according to Minister Tipoteh, the delegation has been furnished with official and private investors' documents identifying areas for possible investment.

Also, an agreement for possible assistance for Liberia in the areas of education, technological development and Liberian business development is to be signed here soon between Liberia and Britain.

Other members of the Liberian delegation were Mr. George William, Director of Investment at the National Investment Commission; and Mr. Marvee Carneh, Chief of External Aid Coordination at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs.

CSO: 4420

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND MINES ISSUES 1980 REPORT

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 13 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

[Article by Emmanuel Osadebay]

[Text]

Because of the declining demand for iron ore, the Liberian Government is subsidizing iron ore mining companies operating in the country in order to prevent thousands of citizens from losing their jobs, according to the 1980 Annual Report of the Ministry of Lands and Mines.

The report noted that this is a result of the country's dependence on a one commodity mineral industry with no definite direction or policy for energy production, use and conservation, and no specific land tenure or utilization policy. This, it added, has had serious consequences on the growth and development of the country.

The Ministry noted that for several years in the past administrations of the country, it had requested Government to develop and execute national mineral,

energy and land energy policies but to no avail. It said it had called upon the PRC Government to develop a definite mineral policy that should be integrated into the National Socio-Economic Plan in order to minimize Liberia's dependence on the iron ore industry.

The Lands & Mines Ministry in the report said several mineral potentials have been identified under the joint U.S.-Liberia GEPA Project but regretted that the continuation of search for mineral has been hampered by lack of funds and logistics. It warned that the country should not continue in this field only under crisis condition.

On the energy situation, the Ministry said there is dire need for a concerted effort on the part of Government and the public to take the problems of energy seriously and urged that

Government should urgently commence studies on how best to minimize Liberia's dependence on an oil base economy.

He said that in addition to the search for petroleum in Liberia territorial waters, there is the need to promote the use of alternate forms of energy which can be found in abundance and utilized cheaply.

On land tenure, the Ministry noted that in not too distant future, Liberia will have a progressive and modern land tenure system in pursuance of which four

Liberian lawyers within the Land Adjudication Division of the Ministry have been sent to East and West African countries that are exposed to both British and French-oriented land tenure systems to study those systems.

It pointed out that in the past, records on land ownership were sketchy and incomplete but said this has received a boost since April 12, 1980 following stern announcements on land and deed registration throughout the country.

CSO: 4420

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO ENSURE SEAMEN'S EMPLOYMENT

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 pp 3, 6

[Text]

The National Seamen's Ports and General Workers' Union of Liberia has recommended to the Liberian Government the employment of at least ten qualified and trained Liberian seamen on every Liberian-registered vessel and other vessel calling at ports in the country.

This, according to the union, will curb the growing unemployment in the field of seamanship and related areas and put a check on the alarming rate of stowaway incidents.

In an interview with NEW LIBERIAN, the President of the union, Mr. George T. Tarbah frowned on the issuance of Liberian Seaman's Passport to seamen without ascertaining job vacancies or opportunities and noted that this has contributed to the growth of stowaway

incidents often to the detriment of well-intentioned Liberian seamen.

He noted that in the past, most labour unions have involved themselves in politics to the detriment of the welfare of their members and explained that the seaman's union will void political entanglement but rather address itself to seeking full-time employment and other benefits for its members thereby aiding the economic development of the country.

He said in order to further assist members of the union that are shore-bound, the organization plans to engage in agriculture, domestic and industrial ventures with the view of benefitting the less fortunate members and their families.

Mr.Tarbah said he regrets the situation in which the Liberian seamen and others in related field has found themselves at present due to lack of foresight, mal-administration and petty politicking among those who are supposed to seek their interests.

he said from now on, the union will work in close conjunction with

the Bureau of Maritime Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and other government agencies to ensure that Liberian seamen are well-protected, well-trained and giving the opportunity to make themselves felt as a force to be reckoned with positively to the advantage of both of the Liberian Government and the seamen community.

CSO: 4420

DISORDERLY OFF-DUTY SOLDIERS TO BE ARRESTED DURING CURFEW

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

(Excerpt) In an apparent attempt to halt the alleged harassment and intimidation of citizens and foreign residents, the Army Deputy Commanding General, Major Morris T. Zaza, has given directives for the arrest of any off-duty soldier found acting disorderly or loitering on the streets during curfew hours.

Speaking in an interview with the New Liberian Friday, the newly appointed Deputy Commanding General said he had already assigned Military Police patrol to carry out his orders.

Disciplinary measures, he said, would be meted out to soldiers caught during this present exercise aimed at containing harassment and other inglorious acts.

Soldiers, he said, will have to abide by military discipline. Those who choose to remain undisciplined will just have to be disrobed, he added.

The Deputy Commanding General's statement comes at a time when there is mounting reports about individuals said to be soldiers who have been harassing residents and in some instances taking the law into their own hands.

Reports recently spoke of three civilians being used as point-blank targets by a soldier. But the soldier who is presently being detained with two colleagues, reportedly denied the accusation, and said the gun mistakenly went off during an alleged struggle that ensued between him and his victims.

A local paper also reported that several residences in West Point were raised recently during curfew hours by individuals in military outfits. It was, however, not ascertained whether the individuals were actually military personnel or impersonators.

Major Zaza, referring to the issue of impostors, warned that anyone found masquerading in military uniform would be prosecuted.

Major Zaza disclosed the arrest during the course of last week of a civilian in Bong County who allegedly was posing as soldier. The civilian, whose name was not disclosed, has already been turned over to the Justice Ministry for prosecution, according to Major Zaza.

With reference to the illegal occupancy of private homes by soldiers, Major Zaza said cases, when reported, would be investigated. If found to be true, he said, all efforts would be made to have the soldiers concerned vacate the premises.

He said moves were underway to have civilians occupying houses already paid for by government within the vicinity of the B.T.C. military barracks to leave and relocate soldiers occupying unauthorized houses into them.

CSO: 4420

BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT SEOUL TRADE FAIR

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 p 6

(Text)

The Korea Trade Center in Monrovia is organizing a group buyers mission of Liberian businessmen to attend the 11th Seoul Trade Fair to be held in the Korean capital from April 1 to the 20.

According to the Director of the Center, Mr. In-Shik Kim, the Liberian businessmen will leave here on April 6 for the event in Seoul, which also includes guided tours to industrial estates for electronics, ship buildings, textile and iron and steel factories.

Mr. Kim said this major international exhibition would afford Liberian businessmen the most convenient opportunity to meet directly with representatives of over 600 established Korean manufacturers, who have the full range of Korean products available for export.

A feature of this trade show will be the emphasis placed on quality products

and good relations between trading partners, Mr. Kim revealed.

Items to be exhibited include electronic and electrical goods, machinery tool and appliances, building materials, textile and garments, stationery, kitchenware, sports and leisure goods, footwears, automobile and auto parts, tyre and tubes, steel and iron products, and chemical products.

Mr. Kim also revealed that similar trade fair would be held from April 15 to 24 at the Eko Hotel in Lagos, Nigeria. Various products from agriculture equipment to heavy industry and plant exports would be put on display by over 40 Korean manufacturers.

For detail information, Mr. Kim said, interested Liberian businessmen should contact him at the Korea Trade Center, King Building, corner of Buchanan and Broad Streets, Monrovia.

CSO: 4420

JAPANESE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 13 Mar 81 p 3

(Text)

A three-man team of Japanese experts have completed a six-week aerial photographic survey of the proposed dam sites and reservoirs for the hydro-power development project at the St. John River Basin in Grand Bassa County.

The three experts, headed by Mr. Hidemi Hayazaki, are from the Asia Air Survey Company limited of Japan. They were commissioned by the Japan International Corporation Agency to conduct the survey in response to a request submitted by the Liberian Government.

According to a release from the Japanese Embassy here, a map of one-ten thousand scale will be made from the photographs taken, which is a first step leading to an eventual feasibility study of the St. John River resources utilization scheme.

The release said a French company, Sogeteec, was chartered for its flying service, while Liberian experts at the Ministry of Lands and Mines closely collaborated with the Japanese team.

CSO: 4420

LIBERIA

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK EXPERTS' VISIT--Two World Bank experts on Tuesday held discussions with some senior officials of the Lands and Mines Ministry on the operations of mining concessions in Liberia. The two experts, Mr Ishrat Husain and Mr Christian Walser, are in Liberia to evaluate the activities of mining concessions in the country and their ultimate impact on the nation's economic development. Lands and Mines Minister Dr Foday Kromah told the experts that the mineral sector of Liberia was dominated by the iron ore industry which, he said, was suffering some set-backs due to global economic constraints. Minister Kromah, however, said government was trying to diversify the mineral sector by exploring for other mineral deposits including barite, bauxite, kaynite and manganese. The World Bank officials commended the Liberian Government for its efforts in developing the mineral industry of the country. [Text] [Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 12 Mar 81 p 3]

SPARE PARTS SHORTAGE--Labour Minister G. Moses Doupu has said that the failure of many vehicle dealers in the country to adequately supply spare parts in the Liberian market was a factor which militated against the economy of the state. The Labour Minister made the remark on Monday when he received a statement of loyalty and support from the Federation of Drivers Union of Liberia. [Excerpt] [Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 12 Mar 81 p 8]

MONUMENT TO SERVICE PERSONNEL--Head of State M/Sgt Samuel K. Doe yesterday broke grounds for the construction of a \$26,000 monument in honour of the men and women in-arms for their struggle to redeem the Liberian people from oppression and suppression on April 12 last year. The monument will be constructed at the intersection of Tubman Boulevard and capitol hill by the Public Works Ministry, and is to be completed before the observance of National Redemption Day.--LINA [Text] [Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 3]

CSO: 4420

MOZAMBIQUE

CREDIBILITY OF SPY ALLEGATIONS SEEN JEOPARDIZED

Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Mar 81 p 4

[Article by Patrice Claude: "The CIA in Maputo"]

[Excerpts] Maputo--Following the expulsion of four U.S. diplomats, the Maputo authorities presented to the press last Saturday, 14 March, two "Mozambican agents of the CIA." According to Mozambican Minister of Information Cabaco, "the Americans were preparing a campaign of destabilization and political assassinations in Mozambique." He refused to disclose the number of people arrested in connection with this affair, but, according to certain sources, from 600 to 1,000 persons were involved, many of them having since been released.

A high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jose Massinga, was arrested on 2 March. Cpt Juan Carneiro Gonsalves received money from the CIA from 1975 to 1977, but used to hand it over to his superiors every month. The absence of tangible proof, as well as the fantastic nature of the accounts provided by the accused which at times fall to the level of the worst spy novels obviously detracts from the credibility of the entire affair of the "Maputo CIA network." The wide publicity given to this matter could possibly stress the victory of the hard liners within the Mozambican Communist Party. The "doves," who would like to see Machel's pragmatic policies continue, have incontestably suffered a serious defeat. The whole deal consecrates the strengthening of the ties between Maputo and Moscow. However, by wishing to prove at all costs, even before the end of the investigation, the truth of their discovery, the Mozambicans have no doubt succeeded in achieving the opposite effect.

CSO: 4400

MOZAMBIQUE

INFLUENCE OF U.S. FILMS ON YOUTH DECRIED

Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 15 Mar 81 p 49

(Excerpt) Is it really worthwhile to speak of such a bad film as "The Rhythm of Happiness"?

Put it another way: By commenting on such a mediocre film, are we not giving it more publicity than it deserves?

Perhaps, but it is not about the film that we wish to speak here. We wish to comment on the criteria that allowed its being brought into the country, the criteria that mandate that this Mark Lester film is a movie without political motives and without a negative influence on youth. Undoubtedly, the film "The Rhythm of Happiness" had a tremendous impact on the youth of Maputo. Witness the long lines stretching outside the theaters.

But what is really worthwhile is to analyze how deeply our youth in the cities has already been influenced by the mentality that yesterday produced (and consumed) the image of the "hippies" and today produces and consumes the "Travolta" image. The number of "Travolta" candidates walking around our cities (without roller skates) is truly astonishing, even without the "help" of the movie. The shirt? A "John Travolta" model. The slacks? A "Travolta" model. The haircut? A la "Travolta."

However, what is really shocking is not the mode of attire, it is not only the appeal to conspicuous consumption. More serious yet is to awaken within the young people desires and aspirations that we shall not (fortunately!) be able to satisfy. This actually creates frustration, it gives birth to a variety of tastes alienated from the system that is fighting alienation. This is akin to propagating the idea that "happiness" is what the film portrays. Happiness is represented like a product that we can consume, just like any other merchandise. This means that a conception of life as politically alienated is being distributed under the auspices of the movie industry. The price that is being paid to take this risk is higher, much higher than the 35 meticals paid for the ticket. It is the price of a seed that is allowed to germinate at the rhythm of counter-happiness.

CSO: 4401

BUDGET PROVIDED FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 6 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Chuks Osuji]

[Text]

THE Federal Electoral Service Commission (FEDECO) has at last provided N15 million in its current estimates for distribution as grants to political parties for 1980 and the 1981 fiscal year.

This was sequel to the order of the Committee on Public Service Matters of the House of Representatives.

Mr. David Attah, chairman of the committee, announced the provision.

The committee had seriously reprimanded FEDECO for failing to make provision as grants to political parties when officials of the commission appeared before it to defend its 1981 estimates.

Mr. Attah described the action of the commission as a serious omission which he said contravened section 208(c) of the Constitution.

He had advised officials of the commission not to allow the registered parties to cast aspersions on its integrity as FEDECO could be a powerful instrument in the promotion of political stability.

Mr Attah also disclosed that FEDECO had submitted to the committee a plan for a successful conduct of the revision of the voters' register that would be used for bye and local government elections.

Highlights of the plan included the adoption of

the Federal constituencies instead of local government areas as registration units, he added.

The plan also provided for the reduction of the number of voters in a polling unit from 500 to 400 to minimize the hazards of long distance travels.

Another important feature of the plan was the cancellation of the house-to-house registration system in favour of registration centres which would, however, be close to population centres.

SPLINTER GROUP SAID TO HAVE EMERGED IN LABOR CONGRESS

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 6 Mar 81 p 5

[Text]

BARELY six days after the first three-yearly delegates convention of the Nigerian Labour Congress in Kano, a splinter group has emerged.

Twenty industrial unions out of the 42 making up the NLC have broken away from the Sunmonu-led NLC.

A rival central Labour movement christened "Committee for Democratic Trade Unionism in Labour Movement" has been formed.

Addressing a Press conference in Enugu on Wednesday, the national president of the Civil Service Union and former national deputy president of the NLC, Mr David Ojeli stressed that the outcome of the Kano convention could not be accepted.

Thus, he explained, was because the atmosphere which prevailed during the conference was not conducive for free and fair elections.

He condemned Governor Abubakar Rimi for showing undue interest in the leadership of the NLC.

Mr. Ojeli alleged that

Governor Rimi influenced voters with huge sum of money deceitfully provided to underwrite expenses of the delegates without ascertaining the actual expenses.

"Not only that Rimi made available huge sums of money which were distributed the night before the election, but Kano Government apparatus and officials were also placed at the disposal of Sunmonu," Mr. Ojeli declared.

He condemned Governor Rimi's address titled: "Unity of workers; a dialectical necessity for the development of a class consciousness," to delegates of the conference as an incitement against the Federal Government and to mobilise support for Sunmonu.

Admitting that he was trained in the Western world, while Sunmonu had his link with the East, Mr. Ojeli warned that it was not necessary to introduce ideological differences into the leadership of the NLC.

Mr. Ojeli called on all Nigerian workers, lovers of freedom and democracy to shun Governor Rimi, because he had created disunity and conflict in the NLC.

Fanaticism

He regretted that the Congress, founded in 1978, to champion the cause of Nigerian workers had become an agency for ideological fanaticism and biased trade unionism for destabilising the country.

The defeated NLC presidential candidate alleged that Governor Rimi, among others robbed him of victory.

"I have no doubt whatsoever, that I was robbed of that post, first by Governor Rimi, and second by a tribal conspiracy, executed by Segun Obilana, labour editor, Punch newspaper and Alhaji P. Adebola, whose belief in practice of tribalism has never been in doubt". Mr. Ojeli asserted.

He stated that he still enjoyed greatest support from Western states adding that some delegates to Kano conference did not fall to the bribery temptation.

The former NLC deputy president explained that he would not blame his defeat on the Nigerian Workers, because some delegates voted against the mandate of their membership.

'TRUMPET' EDITOR FAILS TO APPEAR FOR STATE HOUSE HEARINGS

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 4 Mar 81 p 1

(Text)

THE editor of the "Trumpet" newspaper who was summoned to appear before the Anambra State House of Assembly Committee on Information yesterday, has failed to do so.

As a result of the failure, the chairman of the House Committee on Information, Mr Hyacinth C. Udeani, called on the house "to order the editor to be brought to the committee on Monday, March 9, 1981, whether dead or alive."

Mr Udeani drew the attention of the house to an earlier motion passed in which the editor of the "Trumpet" was asked to appear before the House Committee on Information to clear certain points arising from publications in his paper.

The chairman explained that the editor of the "Trumpet" was supposed

to appear before the committee of the house yesterday but regretted that he had failed to do so.

Mr Udeani told the house that summoning the editor to appear was a part of their business and said that it was foolhardy of him not to appear before the committee.

He said that it was a calculated insult to the house by the editor for failing to appear before the house committee when asked to do so.

Mr Udeani noted that in spite of repeated warnings, the "Trumpet" newspaper has carried on with its reckless journalism.

The chairman said that the "Trumpet" has become so monotonous in its reports that before a reader opens up its pages, he or she knows exactly what the paper was going to say.

CSO: 4420

ITALY SAID REFUSING TO RELEASE 'TERRORIST' STUDENTS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 3

[Article by Baladan Abul]

[Text]

EFFORTS so far made by the Federal Government to secure the release of 30 Nigerian students being detained in Rome have been fruitless because of the insistence of Italian authorities that the students be tried for the offences preferred against them.

In Rome at the week-end, the New Nigerian learnt that the Italian authorities had refused to co-operate with the Federal Government in its effort to get the students out of detention through diplomatic channels.

The Italian authorities, according to informed sources, insisted that the offences said to have been committed by the students fell under terrorism and were therefore offences against the state.

The students, most of whom are of Bendel State origin, were among the Nigerian students said to have attempted to take over the Nigerian Embassy in Rome on January 23.

Their action was sequel to the withdrawal of scholarship awards made to some of the students by the Bendel State Government.

The state government had earlier sent a list of 68 students who were to enjoy the scholarship awards but had quickly withdrawn the list before payments could be made by the Nigerian Embassy.

When a new list was sent, only 37 students instead of 68 were listed.

Briefing eight Nigerian journalists who called at the Nigerian Embassy in Rome at the week-end

on the issue, the Nigerian Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Aremu Agbe, said the Italian authorities were insisting that the students should be tried in court for the offence.

The Nigerian mission, he said, had tried without success to get the students out of jail.

'We have discussed this issue at every level with the Italian office to no avail,' he said.

He said the Italian policemen who arraigned the students and two telephone technicians carrying out maintenance work at the embassy at the time of the siege had given evidence against the students before the court handling the case already.

The court, according to Mr. Agbe, had already sent invitation letters to some embassy staff to appear before it to give evidence.

The officials, he said, could not appear before an Italian court because of their diplomatic immunity.

At the time the journalists left Rome for home at the week-end, it was not certain how long the students might have to remain in jail without trial.

The students have been in jail since January 23. Under the Italian Law, an offender is presumed guilty until proved otherwise.

This means that the continued detention of the students without trial by the Italian authorities is right under the laws of that country.

NNDC APPOINTS IBRAHIM TAHIR AS CHAIRMAN

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 21

Excerpt⁷

DR. Ibrahim Tahir has been appointed Chairman, New Nigeria Development Company (NNDC) Limited. The group is jointly owned by the 10 northern states. The appointment takes effect from April 1, this year.

Also appointed is Alhaji Abu Abdurraheem, as the Group Managing Director. Alhaji Abu is an accountant by profession and is the Finance Commissioner in Governor Mohammed Abubakar Rimi's cabinet in Kano. The new managing director of the most successful indigenous conglomerate replaces Alhaji Hamza R. Zayyad whose retirement took effect from December last year.

Dr Tahir is not a stranger to the goings-on in the NNDC boardroom because he has been on the board since 1978. Dr Tahir is also the Chairman of Nigerian External Communications Ltd—the nation's gateway to the outside world.

Dr Tahir replaces Alhaji Ahmed Talib, who has been chairman for about 14 years.

The appointment came as a surprise to observers after all the prolonged boardroom intrigue and complicated power tussle.

Many insiders in the northern states power game were, however, relieved that at long last the problem of transition of

the NNDC from a succession of management and board leadership appointed during the military regime to ones appointed by the civilians has been solved.

During the military there seemed to have been no difficulties in running the group because all the states were under military and uniform civil service control. But in the elected governments the crucial battle of which political grouping will control the policies and management of the group quickly became a burning issue. Matters came to a head around December last year, with the retirement of both the chairman and the group company managing director.

The group of five—NPP, PRP and GNPP states made a strong bid through a series of manoeuvres to capture both the posts of the chairmanship and the Managing Director of the NNDC Group. During the period from December to last week the NNDC board met several more times than usual, sometimes from morning till near midnight. Breakthrough did not come until the last two meetings before Saturday.

The compromise which emerged buried all disputes and allowed the board to take into account the wishes of both sides.

KADUNA GOVERNOR REFUSES 10,000 NAIRA ALLOWANCE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 20

[Text]

GOVERNOR Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa of Kaduna State has said that he would not accept the N10,000 annual allowance approved for him by the Kaduna State House of Assembly.

In an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kaduna at the week-end, the governor said: "The N10,000 allowance is unacceptable to me because I neither requested nor provided for it in my budget proposals to the house."

The state legislature had passed a bill last Wednesday in which it fixed the governor's salary at N21,000 with an annual allowance of N10,000.

He stated that he would not assent to the bill unless the allowances approved for him were deleted.

Governor Abdulkadir said that there was a constitutional issue involved in the practice whereby legislators fixed their own remunerations but added that he would "let them have it this time because the issue has generated enough controversy and should be laid to rest".

He said that he believed that legislators were inclined to approve "unjustifiable allowances" for themselves as a means of recovering their election expenses.

"As for me", he said, "I spent nothing as the party bore most of the expenses. Why should I connive in looting the public treasury?"

The governor also described as worthless a recent "retroactive" bill passed by the house

which required him to receive the consent of the house before setting up commissions of inquiry.

He said that as the Chief Executive of his state, the constitution and his oath of office required him to uphold the principle of accountability in the state's Civil Service.

This, he said, would be impossible if he could not inquire into the performance of his subordinates, adding that the bill would soon be challenged in the court.

The governor also gave reasons for his recent rejection of a 100 million Naira agricultural loan from the World Bank.

He explained that the World Bank insisted on recruiting its own experts whose projected remuneration totalled 12 million Naira per month.

He said that it would not be in the long-term interest of the people of Kaduna State to accept the loan under such a condition (NAN).

COMPLAINTS ISSUED ON BORDER PATROL WORKING CONDITIONS

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 10 Mar 81 p 32

[Article by Emmanuel Obideyi and Emmanuel Onyehal]

[Text]

THE Anisagba Tribunal at the week-end travelled 144 kilometres from Kano to the Nigeria-Niger border post at Kongolam-Dauda Town. There, it assessed how immigration and customs officials manned their posts.

At Kongolam, the tribunal was briefed about the deplorable conditions under which the officials worked.

The senior immigration officer, Malam Mohammed Bashin, said he and his men worked under conditions unsuited to personal safety.

They had only one Mark-4 gun to keep undesirable elements at bay, he complained.

The tribunal heard that the same men had only one "radio phone", which had been faulty for two weeks.

Malam Bashin said, too, there was no official vehicle "in this part of Nigerian border with Niger Republic".

Protection

He and his men had a complex problem of checking the influx of foreigners, especially those from Niger Republic because of the ECOWAS protocol treaty preventing their passports from being checked, the tribunal heard.

Another witness, Malam Mohammed Ali, a customs officer, also said that foreigners flocked into Nigeria through unauthorised routes.

Alleging that the men had no arms to fight aggressors, Malam Ali suggested that every border post should be protected by an army battalion.

He said: "By bringing us here to the Niger-Niger border at Kongolam without any weapon is like putting us in a slaughter house because when our enemies attack us we have no weapons to defend ourselves."

The border itself was marked by two poles on which hung pieces of red handkerchiefs.

MINIMUM WAGE OF 120 NAIRA RECOMMENDED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Yinka Kwesti Guedon]

[Text]

HOUSE of Representatives Committee on Labour has recommended a minimum wage of 120 Naira for the country.

The recommendation is contained in a report of the committee presented to the House yesterday. It said the amount would allow the purchasing power of the low-income worker to increase.

It further recommended that a tax-free policy be introduced to cover workers on grade levels 01 to J2.

Other recommendations of the committee include non-wage relief measures to workers, whom according to the committee 'should be vigorously pursued'.

The committee further recommended that the Federal Government should research further into fringe benefits (transportation by staff buses and feeding by luncheon vouchers) with a view to making improvement.

Since these benefits are yet to be made universal, the committee has therefore, recommended the sponsorship of a bill to consolidate and standardise fringe benefits.

In detail the bill wants the provision of more official transportation system by 0-Three tiers of government.

Also workers including their families should, by the recommendations of the committee, be provided with comprehensive health facilities.

The proposed bill wants the provision of accommodation for workers' to be mandatory.

Furthermore, it was recommended that import duties on raw materials and spare parts of machinery for textile industry should be reduced to the barest minimum in view of the great

slump which had been created in this industry by the menace of smuggling.

To guarantee industrial peace for the country's rapid economic development, the report said 'we strongly recommend that the Industrial Arbitration Panel established under the provision of the Trade Disputes Act of 1976, should be strengthened and equipped as an extension of four industrial relations system.'

PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT MAY SEEK FRC AID

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by H.A. Aliyu Biu]

[Text]

PLATEAU State Governor, Mr Solomon D. Lar, has said that his government was willing to enter into co-operation with, and seek the assistance of the Western German Government in the fields of industrial and agricultural development.

Mr Lar said this was because of the dire need for technological assistance, in view of the apparent growing industrialisation and agricultural mechanisation, being pursued in the country.

The governor made these remarks while exchanging views with the President of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Richard Stoecklen, when he paid him a courtesy call at Government House, Jos last weekend.

Governor Lar described Mr Stoecklen as an experienced politician from whom a lot could

be learnt, adding that the state has a special interest in the Germans.

Governor Lar said that some of the famous and prominent German companies operating in the state, such as Julius Berger (currently handling the Shen River Dam Project) and Rau-Imex (which specialises in agricultural equipment) have contributed in no small measure to the development of the state.

Earlier, the German Parliament President had expressed his profound gratitude to the government and people of the state for the warm reception and hospitality accorded him and his entourage.

He said "the new form of government in Nigeria might have initial problems, "but the more you proceed in this way and once established, you will discover that it is the best form of government for everyone," he declared.

CSO: 4420

NIGERIA

DEVELOPMENT AREAS CREATED IN ABUJA

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Mar 81 p 12

[Article by Jethro Olayemi]

[Text]

SEVEN Development areas have been carved out from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for grassroots administration.

The Minister for the Federal Capital Territory, Mr John J. Kadiya, in a policy statement, said that development secretaries have been appointed for the seven areas.

He said that in Abuja Development Area, Malam Mohammed Sabo Knana will take charge and Malam Saka Abdurrahim will take charge of Bwari Development Area while Alhaji Yakubu Yunusa, will head Karshi Development Area.

Malam Abubakar Hassan Sadiq will take charge of Kuje Development Area; Malam M. M. Dalhat, Kwali Development Area; Malam Mohammed Karamba, Bubochu Development Area and Alhaji Abbas Mohammed, to head Yobo Development Area.

In compliance with the directive of the President, Alhaji Shehu

Shagari, Development Committees are being set-up for basic administration of each area.

Each area committee, Mr Kadiya went on, will provide a forum for the communities living within that development area to discuss their local problems and find remedies regardless of the religious, ethnic and political differences that may exist among them.

The minister further said that the committee would ensure that every member of the communities within its area is free to go about his business, trade or occupation in a peaceful atmosphere free of any victimisation or threat of any kind.

Meanwhile, elaborate arrangement has been completed to introduce a Mobile Telephone Exchange at Abuja by May this year.

The Assistant Director of Administration in Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Mr E. Aquele, disclosed this at

Abuja, while briefing the Minister of Communications, Mr Isaac Shaahu, currently on tour of Abuja.

The director further told the minister that work has begun on the telephone services to link Abuja with other parts of the country.

Mr Aquele said that two telephone exchanges would be installed for the phase one area of the capital city and that installations would be completed in September 1982.

The Abuja Telephone Exchanges will be connected to Kaduna by 90 channels.

The Minister of Communications, Mr Isaac Shaahu, was told that the exchanges would initially carry 20,000 telephones each and that they would have the capacity for an extension to a maximum of 120,000.

The minister visited development projects at Gwagwalada and the transmitting station of Radio Nigeria, Abuja.

FLOOD VICTIMS ACCUSE BENDEL STATE OF DISCRIMINATION

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 3

[Article by Andrew Isibor]

[Text]

A SECTION of the victims of the Ojirami Flood Disaster in Bendel State have allegedly been ignored in the distribution of relief materials.

Up till now, more than 1,000 inhabitants of Ekpedo in Akafo-Edo Local Government area of the state, who are victims of the disaster have received no relief materials from the state government.

The people of Ekpedo claimed that they are being victimised because the area is a stronghold of a political party different from the one in power in the state.

My investigations revealed that the state government sent relief materials to victims in Akoko and Erewan villages described as strongholds of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) the ruling party in the state.

The embankment of the Ojirami Dam collapsed in August, last year, and the ensuing flood destroyed more than 200 houses, farms, bridges, household properties and livestock in Akoko, Erewan and Ekpedo.

New Nigerian investigations also revealed that several representations made to the government by the

people of Ekpedo have been fruitless.

The inhabitants of Ekpedo interviewed said no state government officials had visited the town to ascertain the extent of damage done or to distribute relief materials to them. They said only officials of the Federal Government had visited the area.

The people complained that they had suffered severe hardship and deprivation since the disaster.

Speaking to the New Nigerian, a spokesman of the Akafo-Edo Local Government area, Mr. Frank Alkali accused the state government of playing politics with the plight of some of the Ojirami Dam disaster victims.

Mr Alkali claimed that the victims in Ekpedo had not got relief materials despite the millions of Nairs already collected as relief fund by the state government. He called on the state government to publicly give account of all the monies so far realised.

He alleged that the state government had threatened the people of Ekpedo that they would not receive any relief materials unless they declared for the UPN.

Mr. Alkali further alleged that the state government refused to open Ekpedo Grammer School built through communal efforts in 1979 for political reasons.

Mr. Alkali appealed to the Federal Government to come to the aid of Ekpedo community.

Contacted, the Chairman of the Ojirami Dam Emergency Relief Committee, Chief J.O. Oye said it was not true that the people of Ekpedo were discriminated against by his committee in the distribution of relief materials.

Chief Oye said what happened was that the people of Ekpedo, unlike Akoko and Erewan communities, did not come forward to his committee to report any damage done to their property by the dam disaster. As a result, no relief material was sent to them, he added.

"The chairman advised the people of Ekpedo who were affected by the disaster to petition his committee for necessary action."

He dismissed alleged political victimisation of Ekpedo community because, according to him, "only victims who complained to us were given relief materials".

ABUJA COMMITTEE STOPS CONSTRUCTION OF 'SHODDY' HOUSES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 p 24

[Article by Jethro Olayemi and David Aigbirior]

[Text]

THE Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory has strongly condemned the construction of one bedroom units of houses at the new Federal Capital and ordered that work on the houses should stop forthwith.

The committee gave the order while inspecting the building under construction at the Accelerated Development Capital Project (ADCP) areas at Garki.

The committee described the one bedroom flats as shoddy, lack of ventilation and space, adding that one could simply jump from one flat to another.

The committee also frowned at the slow speed of work at the old Wuse and observed that the project was about nine months behind schedule.

It then appealed to the President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, to appoint a junior minister for the new capital territory.

The junior minister, when appointed, the committee advised, would help to relieve the present heavy burden on the minister, Mr John Jatau Kadiya.

The committee concluded by suggesting that an executive secretary for the Federal Capital Territory should also be appointed in compliance with Act Number 8 of 1978.

Meanwhile, inhabitants of the Federal Capital Territory who wished to vacate the area have been given March 30, this year, to do so, or forfeit their compensation.

Speaking to newsmen at Jos Airport, on his return from a meeting of the President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, and three governors of Plateau, Kwara and Niger states last Wednesday, Governor Solomon D. Lar of Plateau State, said arrangements had been completed at the meeting to rehabilitate the displaced persons.

He said that the Federal Government would aid those inhabitants who might wish to remain in the territory, while those who were compulsorily displaced would be compensated.

He said that some of the measures by the government included ascertaining that those who were displaced and resettled in three neighbouring states — Plateau, Kwara and Niger — are not molested or discriminated against.

SABOTAGE AT SOFT DRINKS FACTORY SAID COSTLY

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Emeka Nwabufoe]

[Text] Government has lost nearly ₦1 million at the Nigerian Mineral Waters Industries Limited Onitsha as a result of sabotage, since crisis erupted there in July 1980.

This amount includes about ₦350,000 of company revenue lost since the factory stopped actual production in December 1980, when some workers who were allegedly instigated by the suspended chairman seized power.

A further sum of ₦35,000 was also looted from the coffers of the company by the same rebellions.

Presently, the firm of chartered accountant Akintola Williams and Co. is scrutinizing the company's documents to ascertain the exact losses incurred by the soft drinks company.

The Anambra State House of Assembly Committee on Industries and Technology got these shocking disclosures when it paid a scheduled visit to the factory last Tuesday.

The general manager of the company, Mr C.U. Onyekwe, who made these disclosures, also revealed that ₦90,000 worth of concentrates ordered and delivered since July 1980 was allowed to rot and waste away at the Port Harcourt wharf.

The ₦62,000 giant Petbow generator was also damaged by the workers loyal to the suspended chairman, Chief A.C. Nwabude, the general manager further alleged.

Mr Onyekwe stated that out of the eight trailers owned by the company only four could be found, the two staff buses - Toyota Coaster, and a Volkswagen Kombi bus were damaged, in the words of the general manager, by adding salt to the engines.

Also damaged was a Mercedes Benz tractor, a Volkswagen Igala Sedan and a Bedford two and half tonnes truck.

Only a skeleton staff of few engineers and technicians were busy effecting repairs on some damaged machines.

It was also discovered that only three bags of sugar out of the usual 2,000 were left in the company's store. The compressor had been shattered, the boiler damaged, and the water bore hole dismantled.

Meanwhile, new equipment worth N1.7 million have been ordered for the company and, according to the general manager, the new machines would serve as replacements of the old ones and as part of the company's proposed expansion.

The general manager, however, stated that after the intake of new workers from the interviewing exercise now going on, test production may start early next month.

The chairman of the State Assembly committee, Mr T.N. Ezenwaka called for a thorough investigation into the affairs of the company.

He described as "heart rending and deplorable" the damaging of equipment and company's property in order to settle an industrial dispute.

Mr Ezenwaka said that it was not enough to dismiss the offending staff without bringing the culprits to book, and warned that the attitude of government officials towards public-owned firms must change for the better.

CSO: 4420

SECTION OF KADUNA REFINERY SAID IDLE SINCE LAST APRIL

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 4 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Mohammed Bomoil]

[Text]

THE 150 million Naira lubrication section of the integrated Kaduna Refinery has been idle since April last year. The section constitutes about half of the refinery.

A reliable source told the New Nigerian that contract for the provision of the facilities necessary for receiving imported crude oil at Escravos in Bendel State is yet to be awarded.

The facilities that are necessary to receive the imported crude oil are berthing (off shore), on shore reception, platforms, sealine for receiving and pumping the crude oil through 606 kilometres of pipeline to Kaduna.

The source said the refinery is spending about 200,000 Naira every month to prevent corrosion in the lubrication section.

The section consists of ten units. These are the crude distillation, vacuum distillation, propane deasphalting, sulphuric extraction, MEK dewaxing, MEK deoiling, wax-hydrotreating, hot oil system, sour water stripper and asphalt blowing units.

At the moment, the source said because of the absence of the imported crude oil, the refinery only processes domestic crude oil at the rate of 48,000 barrels per

stream per day. This is about 96 per cent of the fuel plants rated capacity. It was designed to process 50,000 barrels per stream per day.

The source said with the Gulf Escravos crude oil, all processing units of the fuel section of the refinery have been operating smoothly. Five of the fuel units which were designed to function as an integrated part of the entire refinery is operated at 50-60 per cent capacity.

A stop-gap arrangement, the source said, was being worked out by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), to import crude oil. Big tankers would be used to bring the imported crude (off shore) from where lighters (light ships) would be used to bring the crude on shore. The source said this arrangement is expected to start by the third quarter of this year.

The refinery was designed to process local crude oil which is light and an imported heavy Naphthalic Kuwait or Venezuelan crude oil. The scheme was designed to take maximum advantages of the individual qualities of each crude oil in order to optimise investment and operating costs.

The source, however, dismissed the speculations that some powerful interests were deliberately starving the refinery of crude oil. The source said the inflow of our crude oil to Kaduna was satisfactory, adding "we have enough stock for 25 days".

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON DADIN KOWA DAM

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Mar 81 pp 1, 17

[Article by A.B. Tapidi]

(Text)

CONSTRUCTION work has commenced in earnest on the 36 million Naira dam at the Dadin Kowa Irrigation Project in Gombe, Bauchi State. Contract for the construction of the dam was awarded last year.

When completed, the dam will cover the area of the Dadin Kowa Irrigation and 30 megawatts of electricity to the people of the area.

Also a 998,600 Naira contract for consultancy studies that would provide specification for the development of the project has been awarded.

The contract was awarded to Messrs C G Appio and Sons. It is expected to be completed within 12 months.

The development of the first phase of the project is expected to cover about 25,000 hectares of land but the total potential for irrigated agriculture in the area is to cover 40,000 hectares of land.

When fully developed, an estimated annual grain yield of over 300,000 tonnes valued at 33.0 million Naira per annum would be produced.

The Dadin Kowa project is one of the "multi-purpose projects embarked upon by the

Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority based in Yola, Gongola State Capital.

Speaking at the signing of the contract, the chairman of the authority Malam Ibrahim Sangan Usman, said the Dadin Kowa project would provide employment opportunities to over 30,000 farming population when fully developed.

Malam Ibrahim announced that already, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture had proposed the establishment of processing mills around the area and more agro-allied industries would be established in the near future.

He said the authority had designed and embarked upon similar projects within its operational areas for multiple water usages like irrigated agriculture, hydropower, rural and urban water supply, fisheries, tourism, flood control and reclamations.

Another contract worth 299,380 Naira for mapping irrigable areas, land tenure and survey of River Sunrai in the southern part of Gongola State was also awarded.

It was awarded to Mapcotec and would be completed within six months.

SOMALIA

HOPES REPORTEDLY DIM FOR SUCCESS IN OGADEN

Lagos NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Mar 81 p 5

[Excerpts]

IN Somalia's dilapidated capital, crudely painted hoardings incite the population to destroy the "imperialist army of neighbouring Ethiopia. The hate remains real, but no longer the intent. Somalia has more or less given up its war against Ethiopia for possession of the Ogaden. After four years of fighting the last units of the regular Somali army were pulled out last month, leaving the Soviet-backed Ethiopians in unquestioned control of the disputed territory. The only ray of light for President Siad Barre is the prospect of American support to balance Russia's muscular presence in Ethiopia.

The task of trying to drive the Ethiopians from the Ogaden province is now left to the West Somalia Liberation Front, a guerrilla movement which is backed to the hilt by the Barre government but which seems to have lost its fighting-edge. Two weeks ago, at a secret conference, the front ditched its leaders as incompetent and replaced them with a younger and more politically-vigorous team. Tight security precautions in the Ogaden show that the Ethiopians take the

guerrilla movement seriously, despite the support Ethiopia receives from Soviet military advisers and up to 15,000 Cuban troops. Mig fighter-bombers (on constant alert) dot the runway aprons at Deridawa, a major Ethiopian base just north of the Ogaden.

It was not just the enemy's military superiority that cracked Somalia's will in the Ogaden. The Gulf war has robbed the Somalis of their Iraqi oil, their sole supply. And Somalia's always-puny economy has been knocked askew by the influx of more than 1m refugees from the war-blasted Ogaden. The flood of destitutes equals about a third of Somalia's regular population. The worst drought in 30 years has turned the refugee crisis into a catastrophe.

Ideally, the Barre government would have liked to treat the refugees from the Ogaden as Somali citizens, to maintain the logic of its territorial claim to the Ogaden. But the economic burden they have imposed has been so heavy that the government has had to admit them as "foreign" newcomers, so as to qualify for international assistance. This has

effectively pulled the rug from beneath Somalia's claim to the Ogaden. At any rate, the Somali government — and even the liberation front — now talk of self-determination for the Ogaden's nomadic people, rather than of annexation.

The Somalis are certainly worried about losing the buffer zone between themselves and the Ethiopians which the Ogaden provides. They claim that the Ethiopians and their outside communist backers are poised to invade Somalia itself and to move against the strategic port of Berbera, once a Soviet base. Such openly expressed fears seem designed to provoke the United States into providing more decisive support. Berbera's future is clearly a key issue. Under an access agreement negotiated with the Barre government last year, the United States can use the port as a base. It offers more than naval facilities: it has one of the longest airfield runways in Africa.

But if President Barre is hoping that an American build-up will allow him to have another bash in the Ogaden, it seems he will be disappointed. The Americans are clear on one point: they will not re-arm the Somali army to enable it to challenge Ethiopia again.

CSO: 4420

TANZANIA

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STUDY BEING MADE OF PLANNED RUFIDI RIVER DAM

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 17 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] London, Monday--Tanzania is planning a vast new dam on the River Rufiji. But before work starts, it is taking steps to avoid the ecological blunders made by other African dam-builders.

It has commissioned an environment impact study whose findings are an A-to-Z of everything that could go wrong.

The Rufiji is Tanzania's largest river, its basin covering about one-fifth of the country with perhaps a tenth of the national population living there. Construction of the dam is expected to begin next year.

The main aim is to provide electricity. But the dam will also decrease agriculture's dependence on seasonal flooding and will create facilities for year-round water transport in the basin.

Fossil

"Hydro-electric dams are becoming essential development projects in the face of dwindling fossil fuels," says a specialist from the United Nations Environment Programme, which carried out the study for the Rufiji River Basin Development Authority.

"But when man superimposes water over extensive terrestrial systems, he creates new and unfamiliar systems and biological associations over which he has little or no control," said the specialist.

To begin with, the dam is likely to affect the animal population of Tanzania's biggest game reserve, Selous, where there are an estimated 90,000 elephants, 20,000 hippos and an abundance of lion, rhino, leopard, zebra, impala and crocodile. They will have to be protected.

Declining soil fertility may result from the greatly reduced flow of silt to the flood plain. There is also the danger of spreading aquatic weeds.--London Observer Service.

CSO: 4420

FEAR OF INVASION SAID GRIPPING KOLWEZI

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Mar 81 pp 8, 9

[Text]

ALMOST three years after Zairean rebels crossed the border from Angola and Zambia and massacred 120 whites in this southern copper-mining centre, Europeans in Kolwezi still view the approach of the dry season with apprehension.

For the population of Shaba (formerly Katanga) province the dry season is traditionally associated with troubles. This year as in previous years, rumours abound about the presence of rebels near Kolwezi.

White civilians living in Shaba Province, about 6,000 of them in all, fear that the Zairean security forces are incapable of responding to a repeat of the May 1978 invasion, in which the rebels, many of them former Katangese gendarmes, tried to gain control of this strategic copper-mining area.

But the Zairean security forces themselves point out that the area is calm and that at present, no suspicious movement of men has been reported in the province.

Western military experts in Zaire estimate that some ex-Katangese gendarmes are living in exile in Zambia and Angola.

President Mobutu Sese Seko has meanwhile, been attempting to strengthen his diplomatic ties with neighbouring Angola and Zambia. This initiative, which has been welcomed by French and Belgian military advisers in Kolwezi is aimed at preventing the guerrillas from using these states as a springboard for attacks on Shaba.

But despite this, Zaire's first state Commissar, Nguza Karl I' Bond, still asked Belgian Premier Wilfried Martens to increase Belgium's military co-operation with Zaire.

This request, made during an official visit by Mr. Martens to this former Belgian colony last week, called for the number of Belgian officers working with the Zairean army to be increased from the present figure of 110.

Of these 110, 20 are based in Shaba, where they are training the 21st Zairean Brigade.

CSO: 4420

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April 8, 1981

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